מדינת ישראל

D	144	31

012
107

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

C. S. O.

SUBJECT

Boundaries between Palestine, Syria & the Lebanon

CONNECTED FILES

NUMBER AND YEAR	SUBJECT

מדינת ישראל
גנזך המדינה

שם BOUNDARIES BETWEEN PALESTINE.

מ - 2 / 107

מזהה פיזי
מזהה לוגי 2.4/1 - 2
כתובת 02-112-04-05-06
מס פריט 939755
04/12/2013

מ
ארץ ישראל
ממשלת המנדט

D	144	31

107

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

C. S. O.

SUBJECT Boundaries between Palestine, Syria & the Lebanon.

GPP. 94717—10000—7-8-46

CONNECTED FILES

NUMBER AND YEAR	SUBJECT

מדינת ישראל
גנזך המדינה
107/2
מ
ארץ ישראל
ממשלת המנדט

(99)

D/144/31 17 December, 1941.

Conservator of Forests.

(98 v end.)

I am directed to forward for your information copies of correspondence between the Cyprus Government and the Secretary of State on the catchment area of the Jordan.

(Sgd.) R. Newton.
CHIEF SECRETARY.

Draft approved by Mr. Newton
Draft approved Secretary
Fair copy typed by SW

JV-FA

HAUT COMMISSARIAT
DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

BUREAU DIPLOMATIQUE

(1)

Beyrouth, le 30 Janvier 1929.

SECRETARIAT GENERAL GOUVERNEMENT DE JERUSALEM
- 4. FEB. 1929
№ 1624/29

№ 146

Monsieur le Haut-Commissaire,

Lors des dernières opérations de rectification de frontière effectuées entre la Syrie et le Liban d'une part et la Palestine d'autre part, les terrains dépendant du village de RIHANIE se sont trouvés partagés entre les trois Etats susnommés.

Ce partage a eu pour effet de rendre extrêmement difficile et délicat le recouvrement des impôts fonciers dus par les propriétaires desdits terrains.

Le Gouvernement Libanais et le Gouvernement de l'Etat de Syrie m'ont fait part de leur désir d'arriver à une détermination exacte de la superficie de leurs parts respectives et ils ont suggéré

.....

A SON EXCELLENCE SIR J.R. CHANCELLOR
Haut-Commissaire de Sa Majesté
Britannique en Palestine
-JERUSALEM-

à cet effet la désignation d'une Commission composée des Mohassebs de MERDJAYOUN, de KUNEITRA et de SAFED qui seraient chargés de ladite répartition.

J'ai l'honneur de prier Votre Excellence de bien vouloir me faire savoir si cette suggestion rencontre son agrément et, dans l'affirmative, quelles sont les dispositions utiles qu'Elle compte prendre en vue de sa réalisation.

Le lieu de la réunion de la Commission en question serait laissé au choix de Votre Excellence./.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Haut-Commissaire, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

Abouhoor

.....

Agricultural Office,
Ramallah,
5th June, 1938.

Director of Agriculture & Fisheries,
thro'
Agricultural Officer, Jerusalem District.

Subject:- Trip to aqaba from 15.4.38 to 19.4.38.

At 2 p.m. on Friday 15th April 1938 we left Jerusalem to Beersheba. The weather was hot with light easterly winds. The number of ~~cases~~ cars was 3 and the passengers were the following:-

Director of Agriculture and Fisheries.
Economic Adviser to the High Commissioner.
Chief Fisheries Officer.
Agricultural Officer, Jerusalem District.
Assistant Chief Fisheries Officer.
Agricultural Inspector, Ramallah.

At about 3.15 we arrived at Hebron where we stayed for some 15 minutes during which time the Director of Agriculture visited the offices of the Asst. District Commissioner at Hebron. We then left to Beersheba leaving the Director of Agriculture behind us and waited for him at the Poultry Station near Beersheba and the quarantine post. Here we stayed for some 30 minutes and then continued to Beersheba. We arrived there at about 5 p.m.

All stayed for the night at the Government Rest House. Having rested for a while we loitered about in the town and later were entertained to dinner by Aref Bey Aref, the District Officer of Beersheba.

At 7 a.m next Saturday morning the 16th April 1938 we left Beersheba on our way to Aqaba. Our party was here joined by the Agricultural Inspector of Beersheba and the Inspector of Police Hassan Eff. Tuffaha.

At 8.15 we reached the Kurnub Police Post which is 42 kms. from Beersheba. Here we had our breakfast. The Director and Mr. Walsh visited the ruins in the vicinity. From Kurnub we departed at 9.30 The land stretching between Kurnub and Beersheba differs considerably in composition; it is mostly sandy clay of average cohesion; while some parts are clay lime. Valley slopes and beds were seen cultivated with winter crops and mostly barley. On the hills there could be seen some grasses suitable for grazing. This area, however, is devoid of artesian wells or running spring water.

After Kurnub we arrived at 11 o'clock at Ain Hassab Post covering a distance of 48 kms. We stayed at this post for about an hour and snapshots were taken. There are two very large doum trees. The soil traversed is light sandy clay and adhesive clay sands. The area is devoid of cultivation and water, except for Ain Hassab which is saline.

We left Ain Hassab at 12 noon and arrived at Ghamr Post at 1.30 covering a distance of 42 kms. We took lunch at this post. The area we covered is barren except for some

grasses and shrubs. At Ghamr there are large tracts of land called Qaa Saaydiyeen which are cultivated with cereals and have good pastures. No water is to be seen in this area.

At 3 p.m we left for Ghidyan which we reached at 6 p.m. The distance being 90 kms. The land traversed is barren and the composition of the soil is mainly sandy lime. It is devoid of water except for certain saline infiltration springs at Ghidyan Post. We stayed at this post for about 30 minutes. The Chief Fisheries Officer, had already left before us but it appears that he lost his way and had to return to Ghidyan whence all set out together.

We left Ghidyan at 6.30 to Murashrash Police Post which is on the western shore of Aqaba Gulf. We arrived at 8.30 covering a distance of 42 kms. We traversed this route in the dusk and it was therefore difficult to distinguish the type of soil and grasses. It is however, full of shrubs and desert trees. It is barren, waterless and not cultivated.

We camped near the Police Post on the beach and stayed for the night

Strong easterly winds blew that night, but the beauty of nature around the Gulf and the clear moonlight made us forget the severity of the winds and the weariness of the journey.

Remarks on Wadi Araba.

The area stretching from Kurnub post to Aqaba Gulf is called Wadi Araba.

1. Some reference was made to the composition of the soil at various points of our route.

2. Most grasses growing there consist of shrubs, buckthorn & Camel thorn etc..

Possible Developments in Wadi Araba.

Before contemplating any agricultural development of Wadi Araba, two major problems must be solved:-

1. Availability of water to an extent sufficient for both people and agriculture.

2. Construction of dams to prevent soil and crops being washed away by torrential rains and streams flowing down this wadi.

If water was made available and dams constructed it would be possible to utilize the lands of wadi Araba for agricultural purposes. Climate and soil conditions are undoubtedly suitable for tropical plants and crops and probably sub-tropical.

At 2.30 p.m on 17.4.38 we left the camp to visit Aqaba village some 7 kms ahead. We arrived around 3 p.m.

Aqaba is a small village. It is within Transjordan territory and administered by the Transjordan Government. It is populated mostly by Hedjazi and Transjordan people. There are a few simple shops. Generally speaking the people are generally idle and depend for their living on the shell fishing industry. The outstanding industry and probably the only one is basket making from palm leaves.

There is also a humble public health centre and a police post.

The ~~earth~~ castle of King Hussein lies in ruin except for its frontage. Opposite the Police Post there is a simple station for meteorological observations of rainfall, heat, wind and hummidity.

In the evening we returned to our camp at Murashrash where we stayed for the night.

Return Trip.

At 9 a.m on 18.4.38 we left Murashrash via a route within Egyptian territory. The way was very bad with difficult bends and climbs. The route runs between high rocky, sandy and limy mountains. Some parts are dark black and some are light coloured. The country is uncultivated and waterless except for some desert grasses. After a distance of 18 kms we arrived at Negeb post at 11 a.m which we soon left to Kuntilla post 50 kms. ahead and arrived at 12.15 p.m. The country is totally desert and contains scattered desert grasses. In this desert we can see the mirage.

Kuntilla Police Post is built on a comparatively high mound. At this post there is an artesian well with an engine, a water reservoir and watering throughs. We lunched here and stayed till 1 p.m.

We left Kuntilla to Quseima at a distance of 97 kms which we arrived at 3.15.

In this part of the country we could see that most parts of the wadi bed are cultivated with winter crops

and these are in good condition. The soil is rather sandy and is full of grasses.

We left Quseima at 3,20, and so passed out from Egyptian territory into Palestine territory. We arrived at Auja Hafir at 4 p.m after a distance of 29 kms. The land is far better here and is cultivated with winter crops, mostly barley, and in a very good condition. The vegetation changes here from desert to maritime and sandy grasses such as thistle, wood sorrel, mouse thorn etc..

We stayed the night at the Government Rest House at Auja Hafir, which is a small village laid out by the Turkish Government but not completed.

On ~~our adjourning~~ an adjoining hill is a lay out for a hospital as well as the ruins of an old monastery.

At 8 a.m on 19.4.38 we departed to Asluj a distance of 43 kms and arrived at 9 o'clock. The land is mostly light clay lime and generally cultivated with winter crops. Grasses here are abundant and varied but similar to coastal grasses.

We left Asluj at 9.25 to Beersheba which we reached at 10 covering a distance of 35 kms. The soil of this area is sandy and clay sand in the parts approximating Beersheba. Most of the lands are cultivated with winter crops and contain various grasses similar to those of the previous area.

At about 11.30 we left Beersheba to Jerusalem which we reached at about 2 p.m. This eneded the trip.

I feel it is incumbent upon me at last to thank the Director of Agriculture and the Agricultural Officer, Jerusalem, for this opportunity of a trip in their company.

I am etc..

(Sgd.) ?

Agricultural Inspector,
Rammallah.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRETARIAT,
GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
JERUSALEM.

8/2

February, 1929.

No. 1624/29.

Reference to previous correspondence:

No.....

The Chief Secretary presents his compliments

to the District Commissioner, Northern District,

.....

and has the honour to enclose the under-

mentioned documents for ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ information / observations / ~~xxxxxx~~ action and

retention / ~~return.~~

Subject Palestine-Syria Frontier.

Date	Description.
30.1.29	Despatch No.146 from High Commissioner for Syria and the Lebanon.

1624/29

DRAFT { Despatch. / Letter. / Telegram. }

To H.C. for Syria

(4a)

MINUTE

J. A. S. Mr.
A. S. "
" "
" "
F. A. S. "

Attorney-General
Submitted for Observations

Chief Secretary
High Commissioner

Y. G.

I have the hon. to ref. to your despatch No. 146, dated the 30th. Jan., relating to the frontier between Palestine and Syria, as affecting the village of Rihaniyeh.

2. I am causing the necessary inquiries to be made and will send Y. G. a full statement of my views in due course.

I have

H C for P.

T.S.
fo
15.ii.29

7660-20000.22.11.28. L.J.S.

(7)

DESPATCH No. 19 M

REFERENCE No. 1624/29.

19th February, 1929

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 146, dated the 30th January, relating to the frontier between Palestine and Syria as affecting the village of Rihaniyeh.

2. I am causing the necessary inquiries to be made and will send Your Excellency a full statement of my views in due course.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's
obedient servant,

(Sgd.) J. R. CHANCELLOR

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR PALESTINE

His Excellency
The High Commissioner
for Syria & the Lebanon
Beirout.

In reply please quote
No. 980/7

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICES,
HAIFA.

(8)

21st February, 1929

1624/29

Chief Secretary,
Jerusalem
- - - - - - - - - -

(3)

Subject :- Palestine - Syria Frontier
Reference:- Your No.1624/29 of 8.2.29

I know of no village named Rihannie which is crossed by the boundaries of Palestine, Syria, and Grand Liban.

I attach a list of the villages so affected.

E. F. Corbett
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

AET/OM.

COPY

(89)

ETA DU GRAND LIBAN
SANDJAK DU LIBAN SUD

A N N E E 1928

Etat de repartition proportionelle des dimes et du Wergho entre les Services financiers de Palestine et du Grand Liban

(Application de l'Accord de bon Voisinage Art. IV)

Proprietes coupees par la frontiere Village de:	Pourcentage du Grand-Liban	Pourcentage de La Palestine	REMARQUE
JOURDY	10	90	Percu par la Palestine Voir N.B. infine
TERBIKHA	5	95	Percu par la Palestine
RAMEH	95	5	Percu par le Grand Liban
AITA CHOOB	95	5	do
SMOUKHA	75	25	do
SAASSSAAH	3	97	Percu par la Palestine
YAROUH	90	10	Percu par le Grand Liban
MAROUN	50	50	do
AITAROUN	80	20	do
KADES	1	99	Percu par la Palestine
BLIDA	75	25	Percu par le Grand Liban
MEIS EDJABAL	75	25	do
MANARA	50	50	Percu par la Palestine
MOUNIN	10	90	do
OUDEISSE	66 2/3	33 1/3	Percu par le Grand Liban
METOULLE	20	80	Percu par la Palestine
DEIR MIMAS	75	25	Percu par le Grand Liban
ABDEL KAMEH	10	90	Percu par la Palestine
KEFER KILLA	75	25	Percu par le Grand Liban
HOURA	60	40	do

N.B. En ce qui concerne la perception des dimes, Jourdy est considere comme un tout.

En ce quie concerne la perception du Wergho ce meme village se subdivisait en deux agglomerations Jourdy et Idmet. Idmet passe entierement en Palestine et represente 2/3 de l'ensemble de Jourdy-Idmet.

Les 10% revenant au Grand-Liban sont donc a calculer pour l'impot du Wergho sur les 2/3 de l'ensemble de Jourdy-Idmet ./.

Arrete a Saida, le 16 Octobre 1923

Signe: ANDREWS
Administrative Officer
a Nazareth

Signe PINCON
Inspecteur des Services Administratif
a Saida

C O P Y

Etat de repartition proportionnelle des dimes et du Wergo entre les services financiers de Palestine at de Syria.

(Application de l'accord de bon voisinage, revise de la date du 2/2/1926 - Art.IV. - pour les neuf mois courant de 1.4.28-31.12.28)

Propriete's coupees par la frontiere Village de:	Percentage de la Syria %	Percentage de la Palestine %	Remarques
Shoka	25%	75%	Percu par la Palestine
Khirbet es Somman	15%	85%	do
Graba	10	90	do
Mughar Shabaani	$66^{2}/3$	$33^{1}/3$	Percu par la Surie
Banias	40	60	do
Tel-Azisiat	40	60	do
Ain Fitt	50	50	do
Barkiat Loutiat	50	50	do
Ain Hamoun Darbschie	25	75	do
Ain Tinie	50	50	do
Dardara	90	10	do
Jelabinaa	80	20	do
Dreijat	60	40	do
Nueira	99	1	do
Almin	80	20	do
Jraba	80	20	do
Rafit	99	1	do
Buteiha	95	5	do

Administrative Officer
Nazareth Area

Sgd/ L. Andrews

Officier de Renseignements
a K U N E I T R A .

Sgd/ F. Grall.

Officier de
Renseignements
a D E R A A .
Sgd/ Bonnette

LE MINISTRE DES FINANCES
DE L'ETAT DE SYRIE

Sgd/ Jemil Elchaj.

1624/29

DRAFT { Despatch. / Letter. / Telegram. }

(10a)

To H.C. for Syria

MINUTE

J. A. S. Mr.

A. S. "

" "

" "

F. A. S. "

Attorney-General
Submitted for Observations

Chief Secretary
High Commissioner

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to ~~my~~ your despatch No 146 of the 30th. January, relating to the Palestine - Syria frontier as affecting the village of Rihaniyeh.

2. In my despatch No 19M of the 19th. Feb, I informed Y.E. that the necessary inquiries were being made and that a further statement would be sent to you.

3. So far as can be ascertained from the inquiries made on the spot there is village of that name which is crossed by the Palestine - Syria frontier. Nor is it shown on any of the lists drawn up by agreement between the two Administrations for the apportionment of titles and works duties.

4. I shall be grateful, therefore, if Y.E. would kindly send me further information about the location of the village of Rihaniyeh.

I have -

? no / h

T.S. fg 3 v 29

DESPATCH NO. 59M

REFERENCE NO.1624/29.

10th May, 1929.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No.146 of the 30th January, relating to the Palestine-Syria frontier as affecting the village of Rihaniyeh.

2. In my despatch No.19 M of the 19th February, I informed Your Excellency that the necessary inquiries were being made and that a further statement would be sent to you.

3. So far as can be ascertained from the inquiries made on the spot there is no village of that name which is crossed by the Palestine-Syria frontier. Nor is it shown on any of the lists drawn up by agreement between the two Administrations for the apportionment of tithes and werko duties.

4. I shall be grateful, therefore, if Your Excellency would kindly send me further information about the location of the village of Rihaniyeh.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's
obedient servant,

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR PALESTINE.

His Excellency,
The High Commissioner for Syria and the Lebanon,
Beirut.

Any reply should be addressed to
The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
P. O. B. 585.
Telegrams "WORKS JERUSALEM".
Tel. No. 1081 Jerusalem.

In reply please quote
27/4.

SECRETARIAT
RECEIVED
30 OCT 1931
File No. D/44/31

(176)

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
JERUSALEM.

30th October, 1931.

Chief Secretary.

Subject : Agreement between H.M. Government and the French Government respecting the Boundary Line between Syria and Palestine.

I shall be glad if you will please forward for the use of this department two additional copies, of the Agreement between H.M. Government and the French Government respecting the Boundary Line between Syria and Palestine - Treaty Series No.13(1923).

Only one copy of the above agreement is available in this office and this is dilapidated owing to frequent use.

for DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.

44444.

SECRETARIAT.
RECEIVED
10 JUN 1932
File No D/144/31.

(19)

PALESTINE.
TRANS-JORDAN.

SECRET.

DOWNING STREET,

24 May, 1932.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No.50 of the 4th of March enclosing the minutes of the Seventh meeting of the Council of the League of Nations during its Sixty-sixth Session, at which the Anglo-French Agreement of the 31st October, 1931, concerning the frontier between Trans-Jordan and Syria was discussed. You will have observed from these minutes that at the close of the discussion the Representative of the United Kingdom stated that he had just been told that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the frontier between Palestine and Syria, which was delimited in 1922/1923, and added that his Government would lose no time in examining this question in consultation with the French Government.

X/21/31 folio (49)

Retained Lines: see page 6.

2. I now enclose, for your confidential information, a copy of a despatch from the Foreign Office to His Majesty's Representative in Paris, embodying the views of His Majesty's Government on this particular question and on the general question of submitting for the approval of the Council or the Principal Allied Powers the frontiers of "A" Mandated Territories. The despatch sets out in paragraph 9 the course which, subject to the approval of the French Government,

HIGH COMMISSIONER
LIEUTENANT GENERAL
SIR A.G. WAUCHOPE, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O.
etc., etc., etc.

Government, His Majesty's Government propose to adopt on the question of seeking the formal approval of the Council for the frontier between Palestine and Syria.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

P. Cheetham Lister.

No.970.
(E.1954/1614/65).

Foreign Office,
S.W.1.
6th May, 1932.

Sir,

In my despatch No.373, of February 16th, was enclosed an extract from the minutes of a meeting on January 30th last of the Council of the League of Nations during its 66th Session, at which the Anglo-French Agreement of October 31st, 1931, concerning the frontier between Transjordan and Syria and the Jebel Druze was discussed. You will have observed from these minutes that, at the close of the discussion, the delegate of the United Kingdom stated that he had just been told that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the frontier dividing Palestine from Syria and the Lebanon, which was delimited in 1922/1923. Lord Cecil added that His Majesty's Government would lose no time in examining this question in consultation with the French Government, and that if any necessary measures had been overlooked, the appropriate action would be taken in agreement with the French Government to remedy the omission at a future session of the Council. The President of the Council, as representative of France, associated himself with Lord Cecil's statement.

2. Just prior to the 66th Session of the Council, Monsieur Catastini, an Italian member of the League Secretariat, had pointed out privately that, according to the Preambles to the Mandates for Palestine and Syria, the Principal Allied Powers, (i.e.Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan) appeared to be the competent authorities for the definition of the boundaries of

of the respective mandated territories. In subsequent conversations at Geneva, Monsieur Catastini implied that as the Principal Allied Powers had ceased to exist as a body, the Council of the League might now be regarded for this purpose as succeeding them. He suggested that as the line laid down in the 1920 Convention had not been specifically approved by the Principal Allied Powers, it ought to be formally approved by the Council, and he urged that the section between the Mediterranean and el Hamme, as well as the Syria-Transjordan sector should be submitted to the Council for approval. In these circumstances, Lord Cecil, after consultation with the French delegate, as well as with Monsieur Catastini, agreed to make the statement referred to in the preceding paragraph.

3. For your confidential information, the status of the Principal Allied Powers, and of the Council of the League in this matter is, in the view of His Majesty's Government as follows:-

4. At the San Remo Conference in 1920, at which the "A" Mandated Territories were allotted, it was decided that the Principal Allied Powers should not only select the Mandatories, but should also determine the boundaries of the territories concerned. This principle was subsequently embodied in Section VII of the unratified Treaty of Sèvres, and at a still later date was reproduced in the first Recital in the Preamble to the Palestine Mandate, and in the corresponding section of the Preamble to the Syrian Mandate, these Mandates being confirmed by the Council of the League, and entering into force, before the Treaty of Sèvres had been abandoned. The Treaty of Lausanne which eventually superseded that Treaty was silent on the subject of the Mandated Territories. It provided, (Article 3), for the determination of the frontiers between Syria and Turkey, and between Iraq and Turkey, but otherwise the only

relevant

relevant provisions regarding the territories lying beyond these frontiers is contained in Article 16 of the Treaty, which states that "Turkey hereby renounces all rights and title whatsoever over or respecting the territories situated outside the frontiers laid down in the present treaty.... the future of these territories..... being settled or to be settled by the parties concerned". The effect of Article 16 of the Treaty of Lausanne on the question of the determination of the boundaries of the "A" Mandated Territories is not entirely clear. It might be argued perhaps that the phrase "parties concerned" means the parties directly concerned in a particular frontier, and that the task of determining the frontiers was thus removed from the Principal Allied Powers. But it is doubtful whether so important a change can be assumed from the employment of such ambiguous and general words in a general article, applicable to all the territories detached from Turkey, and in strict law the Principal Allied Powers probably remained, after the Treaty of Lausanne, the competent authorities for the determination of the boundaries. Whether this is true in the case of Iraq, as well as in that of Syria and Palestine (including Transjordan), is perhaps more uncertain. There is nothing in the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of 1922 corresponding to the relevant passages in the Preambles to the Mandates for Syria and Palestine. Nevertheless, in view of the San Remo decision, the legal position in regard to Iraq is possibly the same as in regard to Syria and Palestine. In practice, however, in the case of all the Mandated Territories, the various boundaries have been fixed, after considerable difficulty and delay in some cases, by direct negotiation between the parties immediately concerned, without reference to the Principal Allied Powers, the part assigned to the latter having come to be regarded, with the lapse of time

and

and in changed circumstances, as a dead letter. The Principal Allied Powers have long ceased to act as a body, and no individual member has ever claimed to intervene.

6. There were special reasons for approaching the Council of the League in connexion with the Iraq-Syria and the Transjordan-Syria sectors of the frontier laid down in the Franco-British Convention of December 23,1920. In the case of the Iraq-Syria sector, His Majesty's Government and the French Government were unable to reach agreement on the exact delimitation of the frontier, and the Franco-British Convention of 1920 stipulated that in such an event recourse should be had to the Council of the League. Reference to the Council in the case of the Transjordan-Syria sector was necessary, because the Anglo-French Agreement of October 31, 1931, involved a definite modification of the frontier laid down in 1920, and therefore the Mandatories clearly required covering sanction in view of Article 5 of the Palestine Mandate and Article 4 of the Syrian Mandate, under which the Mandatories are responsible for seeing that no part of the respective territories is ceded to, or placed under the control of a foreign power. The same considerations do not apply in the case of the Palestine-Syria sector. That frontier was demarcated on the basis laid down by Article 1 of the Franco-British Convention of December 23, 192 by the Commission provided for in Article 2 of the same Convention. The report of the Commission was formally accepted by His Majesty's Government and the French Government in an exchange of Notes, dated March 7th, 1923, and, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 2 of the 1920 Convention a copy of the Report was deposited, with copies of the Notes exchanged, in the Archives of the League of Nations, on February 6th, 1924. His Majesty's Government therefore consider that no further action,

vis-a-vis

vis-à-vis of the League, is called for in this case. The Council of the League, as such, is not responsible for the original determination of the frontiers of Mandated Territories, and the substance of the exchange of Notes of March 7th, 1923, no more appears to require their formal approval, therefore, than any other international instrument which the Mandatories, vested by the Mandates with control over the foreign relations of the respective territories, may conclude on their behalf, except on the assumption that the Council has succeeded to the rights of the Principal Allied Powers. His Majesty's Government, for their part, do not regard this assumption as legally sound, and would prefer not to commit themselves to it.

7. It will, however, be best to deal with the somewhat complicated situation described in the preceding paragraphs in the light of common sense and good tactics, rather than on a strictly legal basis. The question of approval has so far only been raised in regard to the Palestine-Syria frontier but the danger of admitting the necessity of obtaining approval for this Frontier lies in the possible creation of a precedent applicable to all the frontiers of the "A" Mandated Territories (other than those with Turkey, which were definitely provided for in the Treaty of Lausanne). An element of uncertainty would thus be introduced in regard to frontiers hitherto regarded as fixed, and the intervention of third parties might complicate relations with the foreign neighbours of the Mandated Territories. Moreover, an opportunity would be given to the Powers whose approval was sought to create difficulties and to extract advantages for themselves as the price of approval. A further consideration in the case of Iraq is the time factor, in view of the possible connexion of the question with that of Iraq's admission to membership

membership of the League in September next.

8. For all these reasons His Majesty's Government would prefer not to have to seek the approval of the Council for the Palestine-Syria frontier. But they do not wish, by denying the Council's competence, to raise the question of that of the Principal Allied Powers. They propose, therefore, to take no action unless pressed to submit the matter to the Council and in that event the best course seems to be to acquiesce without prejudice and to seek the approval of the Council in such a manner as to commit themselves as little as possible to any principle of general application regarding the necessity of doing so.

9. In these circumstances, I request that you will inform the French Government, in such a manner as you think best, that His Majesty's Government have examined the question of the frontier dividing Syria and the Lebanon from Palestine as promised by Lord Cecil and have come to the conclusion that no necessary measures have been overlooked. His Majesty's Government would therefore propose to take no further action unless and until the point is again raised by some member of the Council or by the League Secretariat. In the event of it being so raised they would propose to state that in their view no submission to the Council is necessary. Nevertheless they would naturally be prepared, always without prejudice to that view, to seek the formal approval of the Council for that frontier should any member of that body press them to do so.

10. I shall be glad to learn whether the French Government concur in the procedure proposed.

11.

membership of the League in September next.

8. For all these reasons His Majesty's Government would prefer not to agree to send the General of the Council for the Palestine-Syria frontier. But they do not wish, by keeping the Council's consent, to raise the question of that of the Friendly Allied Zones. They propose, therefore, in this no action unless proposed by Mr. the Council and in that event the best course seems to be to adopt either of the alternatives set out in paragraph 6 of the Council's report, namely, to send a mandate to the Council themselves or initiate a preliminary or general application for extending the necessary of taking so.

9. In these circumstances, I request that you will inform the French Government, if occasion arises, that the Government are prepared to agree to the Council's proposal, but that they have grave doubts as to the advisability of the Council's proposal, and have been in consultation with the Government of Syria and have been informed that to adopt the proposal would be very unpopular. The Mandatory's Government feel that therefore to which the Council's proposal is not in the Council's or the Council's Secretariat. In the event of its being adopted, they would prefer to state that it does not in any way prejudice the Council's consent to a change. Alternatively, they would certainly, on reflection, adhere to the view that the Council's proposal of the Council's for that matter, should be a matter of last resort, and that it would be better to leave the Council's proposal as it is.

10. I shall be glad to learn whether the French Government agree to the proposed procedure.

H.

11. The considerations which have influenced His Majesty's Government in this matter and which are set out in paragraphs 4 to 7 of this despatch should, as I have stated, be regarded as confidential and are primarily for your own information. I am content, however, to leave it to your discretion to make such use of the material contained therein as you think fit in discussing the question with the French Government, should they display any reluctance to agree to the course which His Majesty's Government wish to follow. I recognise that the question may not have the same importance for them as it has for His Majesty's Government since no question of the approval of the frontiers between Syria and Turkey and between Syria and Iraq arises, while that of the frontier between Syria and Transjordan has already been disposed of, so the submission of the Palestine-Syria frontier to the Council or to the Principal Allied Powers would not therefore have the same inconvenience as a precedent. It seems possible, however, that the French Government will agree with His Majesty's Government that there is no legal foundation for regarding the Council of the League as taking the place of the Principal Allied Powers for the purpose of determining the frontiers of the "A" Mandated Territories.

I am etc.

(Sgd) G.W. RENDEL.

(For the Secretary of State).

R.H. CAMPBELL, ESQ., C.M.G.

etc., etc., etc.

PARIS.

Jm

A
1a

SECRETARIAT
RECEIVED
23 JUN. 1932
File No. 8/14/31

(23)

Reference to previous correspondence:—

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner's~~ *Despatch ~~No.~~* Secret

24th May 1932

Palestine
Secret

(19)

Downing Street,
10 June 1932

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your information a copy of

the paper~~s~~ noted below on the subject of the frontiers of "A" Mandated Territories

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

P Cubitt Lister

The High Commissioner
for Palestine

Date.	Description.
1932 24th May 8/14	From H.M. Representative, Paris, to Foreign Office

(R7537) Wt 12923/2528 5,000 10/30 H & Sr Gp 112

23a

No.714.
(531/2/32).
(E 2575/1614/65).

British Embassy,
PARIS.
24th May,1932.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No.970 (E.1954/1614/65) of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs agree to the line which you propose should be adopted by the two governments in the matter of the claim raised during the 66th Session of the Council of the League of Nations that the boundary dividing Palestine from Syria and the Lebanon, as delimited in 1922-23, should have been submitted to the Council for approval. The Ministry think it probable however that the matter will be referred to again, and that the two governments will be obliged sooner or later to explain the reasons why they consider that no necessary formality has been neglected.

2. I regret the delay in replying to your despatch which was due to the absence from Paris of the competent official at the Ministry.

I have etc.,
(For the Ambassador).
(Sd) R.H.Campbell.

The Right Honourable
Sir John Simon,G.C.S.I.,K.C.V.O.,M.P.
&c., &c., &c.

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1a

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
24 NOV 1933

26

Reference to previous correspondence:—
D/144/311.

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner's~~ Despatch ~~No.~~ Secret

of the 10th June 1932.

Palestine
Secret

23

Downing Street,
15th November 1933

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your information, a copy of
the papers noted below on the subject of the Syria - Palestine frontier

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

P Cantlie Lister

The High Commissioner
for Palestine

Date	Description.
27th October	From the Foreign Office
15 November	To ———

(R1484) Wt 10358/2940 5,000 1/33 H & Sr Gp 112

26a

COPY.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

E. 4006/4006/65. 27th October, 1933.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to invite a reference to Foreign Office letter No.W.11002/45/98 of the 6th October, enclosing a copy of a report by the Representative of Czechoslovakia on the work of the Twenty-Third Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission, and particularly to the passage on pages 7 and 8 of that report, regarding the Syria-Palestine frontier.

2. The Secretary of State considers that, as this report has presumably been adopted by the Council, the two Mandatory Powers will probably be obliged to communicate the Palestine-Syria frontier agreement to the Council for their approval. He therefore proposes, subject to the concurrence of Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, to instruct His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, with reference to Lord Tyrrell's despatch No. 714 of the 24th May, 1932, a copy of which was enclosed in Foreign Office letter No.E 2575/1614/65 of the 1st June, 1932, to ask the French Government informally for an expression of their views as to the next step to be taken in the matter.

23a

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) C.F.A. Warner.

The Under-Secretary of State,

Colonial Office.

262

15 November 3

18188 M.E.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. E. 4006/4006/65 of the 27th October regarding the Syria-Palestine frontier and to request you to inform Secretary Sir John Simon that he concurs in the proposal to instruct His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to ask the French Government informally for an expression of their views as to the next step to be taken in the matter.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) O. G. R. WILLIAMS.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

H

A
Ia

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
8 DEC. 1933

31

Reference to previous correspondence:—
D/144/31.

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner's~~ Despatch ~~No.~~ Secret
of the 15th November

26

Palestine

Secret

Downing Street,
28 November 1933

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your information, a copy of the papers noted below on the subject of the Syria-Palestine frontier.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

P. Cunliffe-Lister.

The High Commissioner
for Palestine

Date	Description.
21st November No. 1811	To H.M. Representative Paris

(R1484) Wt 19358/2040 5,000 1/33 H & Sc Gp 112

No. 1811.
(E 6957/4006/65) 23/11/33.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
21st November, 1933.

RECEIVED
24 NOV 1933
C. O. REGY

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. 714 (531/2/32) of May 24, 1932, I have to inform you that the report of the Czechoslovak Representative on the 23rd session of the Permanent Mandates Commission (League Document No. C 496.1933.VI) contains the following passage concerning the frontier between Palestine and Syria and the Lebanon:- "The Commission's observations on the administration of Palestine contain a reminder of the "promise given at the Council of January 30th, 1932, by "the representatives of France and the United Kingdom "regarding the western section of the frontier between "Syria and Palestine. The two Mandatory Powers concerned "will, I feel sure, communicate for approval at the "earliest possible date the agreement relating to that "section of the frontier".

2. The report of the Czechoslovak Representative has now been adopted by the Council of the League of Nations. In these circumstances it seems probable that it will be necessary for the two mandatory Powers to communicate to the Council for their approval the agreement concerning the Palestine-Syria frontier which was completed by the notes exchanged between His Majesty's Government and the French Government on the 7th March, 1923. In the first instance, however, I shall be glad if you will approach

the/

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Lord Tyrrell, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Paris.

the French Government informally, drawing their attention to the recommendation of the Permanent Mandates Commission, and ascertain their views as to the next step to be taken in this matter.

I am, with great truth and respect,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

(Sd.) G. W. RENDEL.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
9 FEB. 1934
S/14413

(34)

A
1a

Reference to previous correspondence:—

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner's~~ Despatch Secret of
28th November 1933

(31)

Palestine
Secret (2.)

Downing Street,
30 January 1934

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of the papers noted below on the subject of the Agreement relating to the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

Plymouth

(for the Secretary of State)

The High Commissioner
for Palestine

Date	Description.
1933	
15th December	From Foreign Office (with 1st enclosure)
1934	
2nd January	Do -
10th " (No 58)	Do H.M. Representative, Paris (with enclosure)

(B1484) Wt 19358/2940 5,000 1/33 H & Sr Gp 112

E 7275/4006/65

349

RECEIVED
16 DEC 1933
O. O. REGY

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.
15th December, 1933.

Sir,

With reference to Foreign Office letter No. E 6957/4006/65 of the 23rd November, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, the accompanying copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris regarding the proposed communication to the Council, for approval, of the agreement relating to the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine.

2. The Secretary of State concurs in the view of the French Government that the promise given by the French and United Kingdom representatives to the Council of the League of Nations on January 30, 1932, should now be implemented, but considers that this can best be done by means of an identic note rather than of a joint note from the two governments to the Secretary General of the League of Nations. He has accordingly had prepared a draft note to the Secretary General, a copy of which is enclosed, and would propose, subject to the concurrence of Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, to request His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to submit it to the French Government for their approval.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

COPY.

No. 1639.
(943/2/33)

34h

BRITISH EMBASSY,

PARIS,

25th November, 1933.

Sir,

In obedience to the instructions contained in your despatch No. 1811 (E 6957/4006/65) of the 21st instant, I enquired to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs what they thought the next step should be in the light of the reminder, contained in the report of the Czechoslovak representative on the 23rd session of the Permanent Mandates Commission, of the promise given by the United Kingdom and French delegates to the Council of the League on January 30th, 1932, regarding the communication, for approval, of the agreement relating to the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine as completed by the exchange of notes between His Majesty's Government and the French Government of the 7th March, 1923.

2. The Director of the Afrique et Levant Department, to whom my enquiry was addressed, replied that in the circumstances he agreed that the promise should be implemented; he thought that this might best be done by means of a joint letter from the two governments. He had, however, no very fixed ideas as to procedure, and the French Government will, I think, be ready to adopt any method which may commend itself to His Majesty's Government.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) TYRRELL.

The Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.

Copy.

18188/33.

Downing Street,

2nd January, 1934.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.E.7275/4006/65 of the 15th December regarding the proposed communication to the Council of the League of Nations, for approval, of the agreement relating to the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine and to request you to inform Secretary Sir John Simon that he concurs in the terms of the draft note to the Secretary-General of the League which it is proposed to request His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to submit to the French Government for their approval.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) O.G.R. WILLIAMS.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

34d

COPY.

(E 105/105/65) 11/1/34

No. 58.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

10th January, 1934.

RECEIVED
13 JAN 1934
C. O. REGY

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. 1639 (943/2/33) of November 25th last regarding the proposed communication to the Council of the League of Nations, for approval, of the agreement relating to the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine, I have to inform you that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom concur in the view of the French Government that the promise given by the French and United Kingdom representatives to the Council of the League of Nations on January 30th, 1932, should now be implemented.

2. His Majesty's Government consider, however, that this can best be done by means of an identic note rather than of a joint note, from the two governments to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations. I transmit to you the accompanying draft of such an identic note and shall be glad if you will ascertain and report whether the French Government concur in its terms and, if so, the date on which they propose that it should be despatched to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

I am, etc.

(For the Secretary of State)

(Signed) C.F.A. WARNER.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Lord Tyrrell, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Paris.

Copy.

E.7275/4006/65.

34e

Sir,

The Secretary-General,
League of Nations.

I am directed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to invite a reference to page 6 of the minutes of the 76th Session of the Council (League Document No.C/76th Session/P.V.3(1)), from which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom observe that the report of the Representative of Czechoslovakia on the work of the Permanent Mandates Commission during its 23rd Session, which was adopted by the Council, contained the following passage: "The Commission's observations on the administration of Palestine contain a reminder of the promise given at the meeting of the Council on January 30th, 1932, by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom regarding the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine. The two mandatory

Powers

Powers concerned will, I feel sure, communicate for approval at the earliest possible date the agreement relating to that section of the frontier".

2. His Majesty's Government presume that the promise which Monsieur Osusky had in mind is that recorded on page 6 of the minutes of the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Council (League Document No. C. 66th Session/P.V.7(1)). The United Kingdom representative then stated that he had just been informed that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the western section of the frontier, dividing Syria and the Lebanon from Palestine, which was delimited in 1923. Viscount Cecil added that His Majesty's Government would lose no time in examining this question in consultation with the French Government, and, if any necessary measures had been overlooked, the appropriate action would be taken, in agreement with the French Government, to remedy the omission at a future session of the Council. The President,

who

who was the French representative, associated himself with the statement made by the United Kingdom Representative.

3. In accordance with this promise the question was immediately examined by the French Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom who reached the conclusion that no necessary measures on their part had in fact been overlooked. No steps were therefore taken again to bring the matter before the Council.

4. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the matter has been raised both in the Mandates Commission and in the report of the rapporteur which was adopted by the Council, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, in deference to the wishes of the Council, but without prejudice to their views on the somewhat difficult legal question involved, are glad in this case to take the formal step

of

of communicating a copy of the Agreement concluded on the 7th March, 1923 between the French Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the approval of the Council.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
1 MAR 1934

38

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1a

Reference to previous correspondence:—
D/144/30.

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner~~'s Despatch ~~No.~~ Secret (2)
of the 30th January

34

Palestine

Secret

Downing Street,
17 February 1934

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your information, a copy of

the papers noted below on the subject of the notification to the League of Nations of the Syria - Palestine Frontier Settlement of 1923.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Plymouth

(for the Secretary of State)

The High Commissioner

for Palestine

Date	Description.
1934.	
30th January No 174.	From H.M. Representative, Paris
6th February No 211	Do — " —

(R1484) Wt 10358/2940 5,000 1/33 H & Sr Gp 112

No.194.
(136/4/34).

British Embassy,
Paris,
30th January, 1934.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No.58 (E 105/105/65) of January 10th, relative to the proposed communication to the Council of the League of Nations, for approval of the Franco-British agreement relating to the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine, I have the honour to inform you that the text of the identic note, which it is suggested should be addressed to the Secretary-General of the League by His Majesty's and the French Governments, meets in general with the approval of the latter. A copy of the French version of the note is enclosed herein.

2. In preparing a French translation of the English text the Ministry for Foreign Affairs have informed His Majesty's Embassy that they have been obliged at the beginning and end of the note to depart slightly from the English version in order to accord with French administrative practice. I trust nonetheless that you will consider the two draft notes sufficiently similar for the purpose in view and in that case I shall be glad to learn on what date you would propose to address the British communication to the League in order that the French version may be despatched simultaneously bearing the same date.

I have etc.,

(Sd) R.H.Campbell.

The Right Honourable
Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I.,K.C.V.O.,M.P.

etc., etc., etc.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

Le Gouvernement de la République a eu son attention appelée sur un passage du rapport que le Représentant de la Tchécoslovaquie a soumis au Conseil et fait adopter par lui sur les travaux de la Commission Permanente des Mandats au cours de sa vingt-troisième session. Ce passage, reproduit à la page 6 du procès-verbal de la 76ème session du Conseil (document C.76° session - P.V.3 (1), est le suivant:

"Les observations de la Commission sur l'administration de la Palestine contiennent un rappel de la promesse faite à la séance du Conseil du 30 janvier 1932 par les représentants de la France et du Royaume Uni relative à la partie occidentale de la frontière entre la Syrie et la Palestine. Je ne doute pas que les deux puissances mandataires ne communiquent pour approbation, dans le plus bref délai possible, l'accord relatif à ce secteur de la frontière".

La promesse à laquelle M.Osusky se référait en ces termes est apparemment celle qui figure à la page 6 du procès-verbal de la 66° session du Conseil (document C.66° session P.V.7.(1). Le représentant du Royaume-Uni avait alors déclaré que, suivant un renseignement qui venait de lui parvenir, l'approbation officielle du Conseil n'avait jamais été sollicitée pour la partie occidentale de la frontière entre la Syrie et le Liban et la Palestine, délimités en 1923. Lord Cecil avait

ajouté

ajouté que son Gouvernement allait, sans perdre de temps, examiner la question avec le Gouvernement français et que, si des dispositions indispensables avaient été omises, les mesures nécessaires seraient prises, d'accord avec ce gouvernement, pour remédier à cette omission lors d'une session ultérieure du Conseil.

En exécution de cette promesse, les Gouvernements britannique et francais ont aussitôt procédé de concert à un examen de l'affaire. Cet examen les a conduits à la conviction qu'ils n'avaient, quant à eux, négligé aucune des dispositions indispensables en l'occurrence. Aucune initiative n'a en conséquence été prise par les deux Gouvernements pour saisir à nouveau le Conseil.

Le Gouvernement de la République veut cependant tenir compte des observations formulées tant par la Commission permanente des Mandats que par le representant de la Tchéco-Slovaquie dans son rapport qui a été adopté par le Conseil, et déférer au désir exprimé par le Conseil lui-même. Tout en réservant expressément sa manière de voir sur la question de droit qui peut prêter à controverse, il accepte de soumettre à l'approbation formelle du Conseil l'accord conclu le 7 mars 1923 entre la Grande-Bretagne et la France pour la délimitation des frontières entre la Syrie, le Liban et la Palestine.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir ci-joint en vue de cette procédure, un exemplaire certifié conforme du dit accord.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, les assurances de ma haute considération.

(382).

No.321.
(E 756/105/65).

Foreign Office, S.W.1.
6th February, 1934.

Sir,

I have received your despatch No.194 (136/4/34) of 30th January enclosing a copy of the French version of the note to be addressed by His Majesty's Government and the French Government to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations in regard to the Franco-British agreement relating to the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine.

2. I am advised that, although the last sentence of paragraph 2 of the draft note enclosed in my despatch No.58 of 10th January is not reproduced in the French Government's draft note, the two drafts are sufficiently similar for the purpose in view. I shall be glad if you will inform the French Government accordingly. adding that the note from His Majesty's Government will be despatched on the 15th February.

I am etc.,

For the Secretary of State.

(Sd) C.F.A.Warner.

R.H.Campbell, Esq.,C.M.G.
etc., etc., etc.
Paris.

A
Ia

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
8 MAR. 1934

42

Reference to previous correspondence:—
D/144/31

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner's~~ Despatch ~~No.~~ Secret
of the 17th February

38

Palestine

Secret.

Downing Street,
28 February 1934

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your information, a copy of the papers noted below on the subject of the notification to the League of Nations of Syria - Palestine Frontier Settlement

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Plymouth

(for the Secretary of State)

The High Commissioner

for Palestine

Date	Description.
15th February	to the League of Nations

(R1484) Wt 19358/2940 5,000 1/33 H & Sr Gp 112

42a

(E 756/105/65) of 7/2/34.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
15th February, 1934.

Sir,

I am directed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to invite a reference to page 6 of the minutes of the 76th Session of the Council (League Document No. C/76th Session/P.V.2(1)), from which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom observe that the report of the Representative of Czechoslovakia on the work of the Permanent Mandates Commission during its 22rd Session, which was adopted by the Council, contained the following passage: "The Commission's observations on the administration "of Palestine contains a reminder of the promise given at the "meeting of the Council on 20th January, 1932, by the "representatives of France and the United Kingdom regarding "the western section of the frontier between Syria and "Palestine. The two mandatory Powers concerned will, I feel "sure, communicate for approval at the earliest possible "date the agreement relating to that section of the frontier".

2. His Majesty's Government presume that the promise which Monsieur Osusky had in mind is that recorded on page 6 of the minutes of the 66th Session of the Council (League Document No.C.66th Session/P.V.7(1)). The United Kingdom representative then stated that he had just been informed that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the western section of the frontier, dividing Syria and the Lebanon from Palestine, which was delimited

in ....

The Secretary General,
League of Nations,
Geneva.

(E 726/106/65)

10 JAN 1927, D.O.L.

18th February, 1926.

Sir,

I am directed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to invite a reference to page 4 of the minutes of the 76th session of the Council (Legal Document No. C/76th session/P.V.3(1)), from which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom observe that the report of the Representative of Czechoslovakia on the Terminal Mandates Commission during its 23rd session, which was adopted by the Council, contained the following passage: "The Commission's observations on the mandate "of Palestine contains a reminder of the promise given at the "meeting of the Council on 20th January, 1922, by the "representatives of France and the United Kingdom regarding "the western section of the frontier between Syria and "Palestine. The two mandatory Powers concerned will, "here, communicate for approval at the earliest possible "date the agreement relating to that section of the frontier."

2. His Majesty's Government presume that the point which Monsieur Osusky had in mind is that recorded on page 4 of the minutes of the 66th session of the Council (Legal Document No.C.66th session/P.V.7(1)). The United Kingdom representative then stated that he had just been informed that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the western section of the frontier, distinguishing Syria and the Lebanon from Palestine, which was definitely

The Secretary General,

League of Nations,

Geneva.

in 1923. Viscount Cecil added that His Majesty's Government would lose no time in examining this question in consultation with the French Government, and, if any necessary measures had been overlooked, the appropriate action would be taken in agreement with the French Government, to remedy the omission at a future session of the Council. The President, who was the French representative, associated himself with the statement made by the United Kingdom representative.

3. In accordance with this promise the question was immediately examined by the French Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom who reached the conclusion that no necessary measures on their part had in fact been overlo ked. No steps were therefore taken again to bring the matter before the Council.

4. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the matter has been raised both in the Mandates Commission and in the report of the rapporteur which was adopted by the Council, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, in deference to the wishes of the Council, but without prejudice to their views on the somewhat difficult legal question involved, are glad in this case to take the formal step of communicating a copy of the Agreement concluded on the 7th March, 1923 between the French Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the approval of the Council.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) G. W. RENDEL.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
29 MAR 1934

(45)

A
1a

Reference to previous correspondence:—
D/144/31

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner~~'s Despatch ~~No~~. Secret
of the 25th February

Palestine

Secret

(42)

Downing Street,
17 March 1934

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your information, a copy of the papers noted below on the subject of the notification to the League of Nations of the Syria - Palestine Frontier Settlement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Plymouth

(for the Secretary of State)

The High Commissioner

for Palestine

Date	Description.
5th March	From the League of Nations.

(R1484) Wt 19358/2940 5,000 1/33 H & Sp Gp 112

45a

COPY

(E 756/105/65) of 8/31/31.

6A/9700/6220

League of Nations,

Geneva.

5th March, 1934.

RECEIVED 9 MAR 1934 C.O. REGISTRY

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. E 756/105/65, dated February 15th, 1934, communicating, for the approval of the Council, a copy of the Agreement concluded on March 7th, 1923, between the Governments of the United Kingdom and France concerning the Western Section of the Frontier between Syria and the Lebanon on the one hand, and Palestine on the other.

I shall not fail to circulate your letter and its annexes, together with a letter from the French Government on the same subject, to the Council for its consideration, and to take the necessary steps to have the question placed on the provisional agenda of the next ordinary session of the Council.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd)

Secretary-General

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,

Foreign Office,

S.W.1.

140

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1a

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
5 APR 1934

48

Reference to previous correspondence:—
07/144/31

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner's~~ Despatch ~~No~~. Secret

of the 28th February
and 14th March

Palestine

Secret

42

45

Downing Street,
26 March 1934

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your information, a copy of
the papers noted below on the subject of the notification to the
League of Nations of the Syria-Palestine Frontier
Settlement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

The High Commissioner

for Palestine

P. Cunliffe-Lister.

Date	Description.
March 5	C 114 League of Nations

(R1484) Wt 19358/2940 5,000 1/34 H & Sr Gp 112

Encl. to F.O. E 1595/105/65 of 14/3/34

489

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(Communicated to the Council).

C.114.1934.VI.

Geneva, March 5th, 1934.

RECEIVED 15 MAR 1934 C. O. REGY

MANDATES.

FRONTIER BETWEEN SYRIA AND PALESTINE (WESTERN SECTION).

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate, for the consideration of the Council, letters from the United Kingdom Government and from the French Government, dated February 15th, 1934, by which the two Governments submit for the approval of the Council the Agreement concluded in Paris on March 7th, 1923,* between the United Kingdom and France concerning the delimitation of the Western Section of the Frontier between Syria and the Lebanon on the one hand, and Palestine on the other.

* The text of this Agreement is to be found in the Treaty Series of the League of Nations, Volume XXII, 1924, No.565, pages 363 to 373.

1. Letter from the Government of the United Kingdom.

London, February 15th, 1934.

To the Secretary-General
of the League of Nations.

I am directed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to invite a reference to page 6 of the minutes of the 76th Session of the Council (League Document No. C/76th Session/P.V.3(1))[1] from which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom observe that the report of the Representative of Czechoslovakia on the work of the Permanent Mandates Commission during its 23rd Session, which was adopted by the Council, contained the following passage: "The Commission's "observations on the administration of Palestine contain a "reminder of the promise given at the meeting of the Council on "30th January, 1932, by the representatives of France and the "United Kingdom regarding the western section of the frontier "between Syria and Palestine. The two mandatory Powers concerned "will, I feel sure, communicate for approval at the earliest "possible date the agreement relating to that section of the "frontier".

2. His Majesty's Government presume that the promise which Monsieur Osusky had in mind is that recorded on page 6 of the minutes of the 66th Session of the Council (League Document No.C.66th Session/P.V.7(1)).[2] The United Kingdom representative then stated that he had just been informed that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the western section of the frontier, dividing Syria and the Lebanon from

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Note by the Secretary-General:

1) See Official Journal, November 1933 (first part), page 1322.

2) See Official Journal, March 1932 (second part), pages 505-506.

Palestine, which was delimited in 1923. Viscount Cecil added that His Majesty's Government would lose no time in examining this question in consultation with the French Government, and, if any necessary measures had been overlooked, the appropriate action would be taken in agreement with the French Government, to remedy the omission at a future session of the Council. The President, who was the French representative, associated himself with the statement made by the United Kingdom representative.

3. In accordance with this promise the question was immediately examined by the French Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom who reached the conclusion that no necessary measures on their part had in fact been overlooked. No steps were therefore taken again to bring the matter before the Council.

4. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the matter has been raised both in the Mandates Commission and in the report of the Rapporteur which was adopted by the Council, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, in deference to the wishes of the Council, but without prejudice to their views on the somewhat difficult legal question involved, are glad in this case to take the formal step of communicating a copy of the Agreement concluded on the 7th March, 1923, between the French Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the approval of the Council.

(Signed) G.W. RENDEL.

2. Letter from the French Government.

(Translation) Paris, February 15th, 1934.

To the Secretary-General
of the League of Nations.

Sir,

The French Government has had its attention drawn to a passage in the report submitted by the representative of Czechoslovakia to the Council and adopted by it on the work of the Permanent Mandates Commission during its twenty-third session. This passage, which is reproduced on page 6 of the Minutes of the Seventy-sixth Session of the Council (Document C/76th Session/P.V.3 (1)),[1] is as follows:

> "The Commission's observations on the administration of Palestine contain a reminder of the promise given at the meeting of the Council on January 30th, 1932, by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom regarding the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine. The two mandatory Powers will, I feel sure, communicate for approval at the earliest possible date the agreement relating to that section of the frontier".

The promise to which M. Osusky referred in these terms is presumably that recorded on page 6 of the Minutes of the Sixty-sixth Session of the Council (Document C.66th Session/P.V.7(1))[2]. The United Kingdom representative then stated that

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Note by the Secretary-General:
(1) See Official Journal, November 1933 (First Part), p.1322.
(2) See Official Journal, March 1932 (Second Part), pp.505-506.

he had just been informed that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the western section of the frontier, dividing Syria and the Lebanon from Palestine, which was delimited in 1923. Viscount Cecil added that his Government would lose no time in examining this question in consultation with the French Government and, if any necessary measures had been overlooked, the appropriate action would be taken, in agreement with the French Government, to remedy the omission at a future session of the Council.

In accordance with this promise, the question was immediately examined by the British Government together with the French Government, and the two Governments reached the conclusion that no necessary measures on their part had in fact been overlooked. No steps were therefore taken by the two Governments to bring the matter again before the Council.

The French Government nevertheless desires to take into account the observations made both by the Permanent Mandates Commission and by the Czechoslovak representative in his report, which was adopted by the Council, and to accede to the wishes of the Council itself. While expressly reserving its views on the legal question which may give rise to controversy, it is prepared to submit the Agreement concluded on March 7th, 1923 between Great Britain and France for the delimitation of the frontiers between Syria, the Lebanon and Palestine, for the formal approval of the Council.

I have the honour to communicate to you herewith a certified true copy of the said Agreement [1] for this purpose.

For the Minister for Foreign Affairs
and by delegation:

(signed) Alexis LEGER
French Ambassador,
Secretary-General.

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1) Note by the Secretary-General: See note on page 1.

Code, Cypher or Clear? Code. Immediate.

TELEGRAM

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
19 MAY. REC'D
D/144/31

51

C.S.O. 53

From Secretary of State.

Despatched (Date and Time) 18.5.34.

To

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE, JERUSALEM.

Received (Date and Time) 19.5.34.

No. 163 Confidential. Dated:

Following for Hall. Begins.

League of Nations Council have referred for advice to Permanent Mandates Commission, Anglo-French Agreement of 7th March,1923 as to the Palestine-Syrian frontier. Catastini anticipates that Commission will ask why time fixed by the 1923 Agreement does not follow line~~s~~ of the 1920 Convention. Past correspondence is being examined here but you may like to bring with you any relevant information available locally. ends.

Note on variations between the frontier between Palestine and Syria as laid down in the Anglo - French Convention of the 23rd December, 1920, and the Anglo - French Agreement of the 7th March, 1923, regarding the Boundary between Palestine and Syria.

A Commission was appointed in 1921 "to trace on the spot the boundary line laid down in Article 1" (of the 1920 Convention) "between the French and British mandatory territories". For the Palestine - Syrian section of the frontier the British members were Lieut.Colonel Newcombe and Captain Brunton, and the chief French Commissioner was Lieut.Colonel Paulet.

2. At the time when the appointment of the Commission was under consideration, in the hope that by some local bargain during delimitation a better frontier might be obtained, His Majesty's Government secured the agreement of the French Government that the delimitation should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of article 29 of the Treaty of Sevres, the relevant portion of which reads as follows:

Sec. of State's telegram No. 23 of 21.4.21.

> Boundary Commissions, whose composition is or will be fixed in the present Treaty or in Treaties supplementary thereto, will have to trace these frontiers on the ground.
>
> They shall have the power, not only of fixing those portions which are defined as "a line to be fixed on the ground", but also, if the Commission considers it necessary of revising in matters of detail portions defined by administrative boundaries or otherwise. They shall endeavour in all cases to follow as nearly as possible the descriptions given in the Treaties, taking into account as far as possible, administrative boundaries and local economic interests.

note on variations between the frontier between Palestine and Syria as laid down in the Anglo - French Convention of the 23rd December, 1920, and the Anglo - French Agreement of the 7th March, 1923, regarding the boundary between Palestine and Syria.

A demarcation was carried in 1921 "to trace on the spot the boundary line laid down in Article 1" (of the 1920 convention) "between the French and British mandatory territories". The two delegates - Captain Paulier for the British Mandate and Colonel Trouvelot and Capitaine Brunon, and the other French commissioners was Lieut.Colonel Joulet.

5. As the line was the opportunity of the commission was under consideration, in the end left by some 2000 yards during delimitation a better frontier might be obtained. His Majesty's Government's view of the statement of the French Government that the delimitation should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Treaty of Sevres, the relevant portion of which reads as follows:

"Boundary commissions, whose composition is or will be fixed in the present Treaty or in Treaties supplementary thereto, will have to trace these frontiers on the spot. They shall have the power, not only of fixing the positions which are defined as "a line to be fixed on the ground", but also, if the commission considers it necessary of modifying in matters of detail provisions contained in administrative boundaries or otherwise, "they shall endeavour in all cases to satisfy as nearly as possible the general wishes given in the Treaties, having regard as far as possible, administrative convenience and the economic interests.

A similar provision is included in article 5 of the Treaty of Lausanne.

3. As regards the actual divergencies between the lines of 1920 and 1923, the frontier may be considered in five sections.

(a) From Ras en Naqura to Metulla.

The maps available show that the Wadis El Doubleh, (Ed Doubbeh) and Es Zerka, remain in Syria, and the Wadis Kerkera and Fara remain in Palestine as laid down in the 1920 Convention. The Wadi Horoun (Palestine) and Wadi El Aioun (Syria) mentioned in the Convention, cannot at the moment be identified. South of Metulla the present boundary follows generally the watershed between the Jordan (Huleh) and the Litani.

It appears therefore that the 1923 frontier in this section follows generally the line laid down in 1920. Any minor variations appear to be due to the desire of the Commission to avoid, as far as possible, the division of the lands of a village.

Letter from Col.Newcombe to Under Sec. of State of 13.6.21.

(b) From Metulla to Banias.

In this section the 1923 boundary follows the path from Metullah to Banias, leaving the path entirely in Syrian territory. It is therefore in accordance with the 1920 Convention.

(c) From Banias to the Northern ~~point~~ part of Lake Tiberias.

There is a noticeable divergence between the two lines in this section. That of 1920 follows a track in a generally south-south-easterly direction to Skek, thence approximately southwards to the source of the Wadi Jeraba, and thence along the course of this Wadi to Lake Tiberias following its more eastern mouth known as Wadi Massadiya. The 1923 frontier follows a line considerably to the west of the foregoing, leaving Banias in a south-westerly direction and

later following the foothills to the East of the Huleh plain and marsh: from the North East corner of Lake Huleh it follows a line slightly (600 to 200 metres) to the East of the Eastern Shore of Lake Huleh and the left bank of the Jordan to where the Eastern mouth of the latter enters Lake Tiberias.

The greatest distance between the two lines is nearly 7 kilometres: the length of the section (as the crow flies) is about 39 kilometres.

The object of this change was to avoid so far as possible the division by an international boundary of the lands of the Amir Mahmud el Faour el Fadl, an influential landowner and Sheikh of a Beduin tribe. The 1923 line has left the whole of the Amir's land in Syria.

Letters from Col.Newcombe to Under Secretary of State of 13.6.21 and 19.6.21.

(d) From the North of Lake Tiberias to the point where the Yarmuck valley debouches on to the Jordan Valley East-South-East of Samakh.

The 1920 Convention envisaged a line from the mouth of the Wadi Massadiya, across Lake Tiberias to Samakh, and thence along the Southern side of the Railway to the Yarmuck Valley. The 1923 boundary follows the Eastern shore of the Lake for about half its length and is then carried inland along the heights parallel to the shore, leaving the villages of Nuqeib and Samra, and the town of Samakh with the plain to its East, wholly in Palestine.

The object of this change was two-fold:

(i) by including the Lake entirely within Palestine navigation thereon would be under one control, customs frontiers would be more easily protected and the eventual construction of a dam at the point where the River Jordan issues from the Lake would

Letters from Col.Newcombe to Under Secretary of State of 13.6.21 and 19.6.21.

not involve any international question;

(ii) by taking inland the frontier on the Southern part of this section the lands of Abbas Effendi of Haifa would be included in Palestine. The change also constituted a compensation to Palestine for the area yielded to Syria under section (c). The right to construct a pier at Samakh, and the extraterritoriality of the Railway up to Samakh Station, were preserved to Syria by the 1923 Agreement.

(e) The Yarmuk Valley.

According to the 1920 Convention the frontier was to follow the valley keeping to the South of the Railway. The 1923 Agreement places it on the Northern edge of the valley as far as El Hamme, where the Palestine-Syria frontier ends.

Letter from Col. Newcombe to Under Secretary of State of 19.6.21.

The reason of this change appears to have been the possibility that it might be desired to construct at a later date a canal from El Hammé to Lake Tiberias: it was also ascertained that the lands in the Valley belonged to inhabitants of Palestine.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
24 MAY 1934
of 144/31

53

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1a

Reference to ~~previous correspondence~~:

Secretary of State's ~~High Commissioner's~~ Despatch ~~No.~~ Secret

of the 26th March

48

Palestine

Secret 3.

Downing Street,

17. May 1934

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your information, a copy of the papers noted below on the subject of the Palestine - Syria frontier.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

P Cantlie Lister.

The High Commissioner

for Palestine

Date	Description.
1st May	from the League of Nations (with enclosure)
10th "	to Mr R. A. Campbell (Paris)

(R1484) Wt 19358/2940 5,000 1/33 H & Sr Gp 112

539

Copy.

(E.2769/105/65)

Confidential

League of Nations,

Geneva,

May 1st 1934.

Dear Mr. Strang,

The Rapporteur for Mandates on the Council - the representative of Czechoslovakia - has instructed me to forward confidentially to the British Government the enclosed advance copy of his report on the Syria-Palestine frontier. This question appears, as you know, on the agenda of the coming session of the Council (Item 14 of the provisional agenda, Document C.132 M.52.1934).

In accordance with the Rapporteur's request, I am forwarding copies of his draft report to the French and Italian representatives on the Council at the same time.

As a matter of fact my intention was to approach you on this subject through Walters, but, as you probably know, he is touring the Baltic States at the moment.

Will you kindly let me know any observations the British representative may make on the draft report, in order to enable me to forward them to the Rapporteur as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd)

William Strang, Esq., C.M.G.,

Foreign Office,

London, S.W.1.

Copy

Communiqué au

Conseil

C. 1934.VI.

SOCIETE DES NATIONS.

Genève, le 1934.

MANDATS.

FRONTIERE ENTRE LA SYRIE ET LA PALESTINE-PARTIE OCCIDENTALE.

Projet de rapport du Représentant de la Tchécoslovaquie.

Le Conseil a été prié, par une requête conjointe des Gouvernements de la France et du Royaume-Uni, en date du 15 février 1934, d'approuver les dispositions d'un accord relatif à la frontière entre la Syrie et le Liban et la Palestine.

L'accord en question a pour objet de préciser le tracé de la section occidentale de la limite entre les territoires détachés de l'ancien empire ottoman et placés sous les mandats du Royaume-Uni et de la France telle qu'elle a été définie dans la Convention franco-britannique du 23 décembre 1920.

La section orientale de la ligne définie par la Convention de 1920 - c'est-à dire la frontière entre l'Irak et la Syrie - a été définitivement fixée par la décision du Conseil du 25 novembre 1932, sur la base du rapport d'une Commission d'étude qui avait été constituée par le Conseil à la demande des deux Puissances mandataires intéressées, et d'un avis de la Commission permanente des Mandats.

Quant à la section Syrie-Djebel Druse-Transjordanie de la frontière, comprise entre les deux précédentes, elle a fait l'objet d'un accord franco-britannique du 31 octobre 1931 que le Conseil a revêtu de son approbation le 30 janvier 1932.

A cette occasion, les représentants du Royaume-Uni et de la France firent part de leur intention d'examiner les raisons pour lesquelles l'accord du 7 mars 1923, délimitant la

section

section occidentale de la frontière entre les territoires sous mandat n'avait pas été soumis à l'approbation du Conseil.

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Dans leur lettre conjointe en date du 15 février 1934, les gouvernements de la France et du Royaume-Uni déclarent que l'examen auquel ils ont procédé les a conduits à la conviction qu'ils n'avaient, quant à eux, négligé aucune les dispositions indispensables en s'abstenant de solliciter, à l'époque, l'approbation du Conseil au sujet de la section occidentale de la frontière entre les territoires placés sous leur mandat.

Néanmoins, désireux de tenir compte des observations formulées, tant par la Commission permanente des Mandats à sa vingt-troisième session, que par le Conseil le 28 septembre 1933, et déférant au désir exprimé par ce dernier, les deux gouvernements ont, tout en réservant leur manière de voir sur la question de droit qu'ils estiment pouvoir prêter à controverse, soumis l'accord du 7 mars 1923 à l'approbation du Conseil.

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o o

Le texte sur lequel le Conseil est appelé à se prononcer est un accord de délimitation de frontière datant de plus de dix ans et dont les dispositions ne paraissent avoir fait l'objet d'acune objection, ni des populations intéressées, ni d'Etats tiers, ni de membres du Conseil, et n'avoir soulevé aucune critique de la part de la Commission permanente des Mandats.

En effet: lorsqu'il approuva, le 30 janvier 1932, la section centrale de la même frontière, le Conseil prit sa

résolution

résolution dans les termes suivants:

"Le Conseil,

"Considérant que, dans leur accord du 31 octobre 1931, la Grande-Bretagne et la France ont établi un tracé de frontière qu'il a toutes raisons de croire conforme aux intérêts des populations confiées à leur mandat;

"Considérant que, dans ces conditions, et vu l'intérêt qui s'attache à un règlement immédiat de la question, il ne paraît pas indispensable de saisir la Commission permanente des Mandats dont, dans d'autres circonstances, il n'aurait pas manqué de recueillir l'avis;

"Donnant suite à la démarche conjointe des Gouvernements britannique et français;

"Approuve l'Accord du 31 octobre 1931 relatif à la frontière Syrie-Djebel Druse-Transjordanie".

Les raisons d'urgence qui motivèrent cette résolution n'étant pas invoquées dans le cas présent, je proposerai au Conseil de donner à la Commission permanente des Mandats l'occasion d'examiner si le tracé de frontière fixé par la Convention franco-britannique du 7 mars 1923 appelle de sa part des observations relatives à l'exécution des mandats.

Au cas où le Conseil ferait siennes les considérations qui précèdent, je lui proposerais d'adopter la résolution suivante:

"Le Conseil,

"Donnant suite à la requête conjointe des gouvernements de la France et du Rotaume-Uni, Puissances mandataires pour la Syrie et la Palestine,

"Se déclare disposé à examiner, aux fins d'approbation, l'Accord franco-britannique du 7 mars 1923 qui délimite la section occidentale de la frontière définie par la Convention du 23 décembre 1920;

"Invite

"Invite à cet effet la Comission permenente des Mandats à lui faire part, dans le plus bref délai possible, de son avis sur la tracé fixé par ledit accord, du point de vue de l'exécution des mandats;

"Et prie conséquence le Secrétaire général de communiquer à la Commission permanente des Mandats la documentation soumise par les gouvernements de la France et du Royaume-Uni, ainsi que le procès-verbal de la présente séance du Conseil".

Rec'd 11/5/34.

COPY.

(E 2973/105/65)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

10th May, 1934.

My dear Campbell,

When your letter No. 136/13/34 of the 8th May reached me we were considering what attitude we should take up towards the proposal that the Franco-British agreement about the Syria-Palestine frontier should be referred to the Permanent Mandates Commission.

2. This proposal was, as you know, first made by the Italians. It has been taken up by the Council's Rapporteur for mandates questions, whose draft report, a copy of which I enclose, has been sent to us for our observations.

3. We do not at all like the proposal that the frontier agreement should be referred to the Mandates Commission, but, like the Quai d'Orsay, we feel that we cannot actively resist the proposed reference now that it has been suggested. The first paragraph of the third section of the Rapporteur's draft report does however suggest that the reference is really unnecessary, and we therefore think that the French and United Kingdom delegations at Geneva might try by judicious lobbying to get this useless formality omitted. If they succeed, well and good. If not, we suggest that the United Kingdom and French delegates might take the opportunity when the Rapporteur's report comes before the Council to state that, although they

do

R. H. Campbell, Esq., C.M.G.

do not wish to object to the matter being referred to the Permanent Mandates Commission if the Council so wish, His Majesty's Government and the French Government for the reasons indicated in the Rapporteur's report ieself consider such reference unnecessary.

4. You will no doubt reply to Monsieur de Saint Quentin on these lines and express the hope that the French delegation may be instructed to concert with the United Kingdom delegation accordingly.

Yours ever,

(Signed) G. W. Rendel.

Adresse télégraphique: NATIONS GENEVE

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

Dans toute communication portant sur ce sujet prière de rappeler le No. .....
et d'adresser: M. le Secrétaire général de la Société des Nations, Genève.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
6 JUN. 1934
D/144/31

57

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

In any further communication on this subject please quote No. 6A/9063/1746.
and address to: The Secretary-General, League of Nations, Geneva.

GENEVA, May 14th, 1934.

My dear Hall,

As I know that you like to have an idea as to what questions are likely to arise in the course of your hearing as accredited representative, I think I should draw your attention to the following: -

The Council of the League forwarded this morning to the Mandates Commission for advice the Franco-British Agreement of March 7th, 1923, on the delimitation of the frontier between Palestine and Syria. I therefore anticipate that questions on various points in connection with the frontier line, in particular on the reasons why the line fixed by the 1923 agreement does not follow the line of the 1920 Convention, will be put to the accredited representatives for Palestine and Syria at the coming session.

Looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you in your new capacity,

Yours sincerely,

Vito Catalani

J. H. Hall, Esq., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.,
Chief Secretary to the Government
of Palestine,
The Secretariat,
JERUSALEM,
Palestine.

c/o Mr. Parkin,
Colonial Office,
London.

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GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
14 JUN. 1934

59

Reference to previous correspondence :—
B/144/31

Secretary of State's
~~High Commissioner~~'s Despatch No. Secret (3)
17th. May.

Palestine.

Secret. (2.)

53

Downing Street,
6th June, 1934.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information, a copy of the papers noted below on the subject of the frontier between Syria and Palestine.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

P Cunliffe-Lister.

The High Commissioner
for Palestine.

Date	Description.
	Extract from the minutes of the 79th. session of the Council to the League of Nations.

(R1484) Wt 10358/2940 5,000 1/33 H & Sr Gp 112

59a

Extract from 79th Session of the League Council's Minutes.

* * * * *

3409. Mandates: Frontier between Syria and Palestine (Western Part).

M. OSUSKY presented the following report and resolution:

"The Council has been asked, in a joint request, dated February 15th, 1934, from the Governments of France and the United Kingdom, to approve the provisions of an agreement concerning thefrontier between Syria and the Lebanon and Palestine.

"The purpose of this agreement is to establish the exact line of the western section of the boundary between the territories detached from the former Ottoman Empire and placed under British and French mandates, as defined in the Franco-British Convention of December 23rd, 1920.

"The eastern section of the line defined by the Convention of 1920 - i.e., the frontier between Iraq and Syria - was finally fixed by the Council's decision of November 25th, 1932, on the basis of the report of a Commission of Enquiry which had been appointed by the Council at the request of the two mandatory Powers concerned, and also of an opinion given by the Permanent Mandates Commission.

"The Syrian - Jebel Druze - Transjordan section of the frontier, which lies between the two sections mentioned above, was settled by a Franco-British Agreement dated October 31st, 1931, approved by the Council on January 30th, 1932.

"On

"On that occasion the United Kingdom and French representatives signified their intention of examining the reasons for which the Agreement of March 7th, 1923, delimiting the western section of the frontier between the mandated territories, had not been submitted to the Council's approval.

*
* *

"In their joint letter of February 15th, 1934, the Governments of France and of the United Kingdom state that, after examining the question, they have reached the conclusion that no necessary measures on their part had been overlooked in refraining to ask the Council's approval at the time with regard to the western section of the frontier between the territories under their mandate.

"Nevertheless, being anxious to take into account the observations made both by the Permanent Mandates Commission at its twenty-third session and by the Council on September 28th, 1933, and in deference to the wish expressed by the latter, but without prejudice to their views on the legal question involved, which might in their opinion give rise to controversy, the two Governments have submitted the Agreement of March 7th, 1923, for the Council's approval.

*
* *

"The text on which the Council is asked to give its opinion is a frontier delimitation agreement dating over ten years back, the provisions of which do not seem to have given rise to any objection either on the part of the populations concerned or of third States or of Members of the Council, and their application does not seem to have occasioned any criticisms on the part of the Permanent Mandates Commission.

"When

"When it approved the central section of the same frontier on January 30th, 1932, the Council adopted its resolution in the following terms:

"'The Council,

"'Considering that, in their Agreement of October 31st, 1931, Great Britain and France have drawn up a frontier-line which the Council has every reason to believe to be in the interests of the populations under mandate;

"'Considering that, in these circumstances and in view of the importance of an immediate settlement of the question, it does not seem essential to refer the matter to the Permanent Mandates Commission, whose opinion in other circumstances it would certainly have asked;

"'In response to the joint request of the British and French Governments:

"'Approves the Agreement of October 31st, 1931, regarding the Syrian - Jebel Druze - Transjordan frontier.'"

"As the reasons of urgency on which this resolution was based are not invoked in the present case, I propose that the Council should give the Permanent Mandates Commission an opportunity of considering whether the frontier-line fixed by the Franco-British Convention of March 7th, 1923, calls for any observations on its part in connection with the execution of the mandates.

"Should the Council endorse the foregoing considerations, I propose that it adopt the following resolution:

"'The Council,

"'In response to the joint request of the Governments of France and the United Kingdom, the mandatory Powers for Syria and Palestine:

"'Declares its willingness to examine, with a view to approval, the Franco-British Agreement of March 7th, 1923, which delimits the western section of the frontier defined

by

by the Convention of December 23rd, 1920;

"'Accordingly invites the Permanent Mandates Commission to inform it as soon as possible of its opinion on the line fixed by the said Agreement from the point of view of the execution of the mandates;

"'Therefore requests the Secretary-General to communicate to the Permanent Mandates Commission the documentation submitted by the French and United Kingdom Governments and the Minutes of the present meeting of the Council.'"

Mr. EDEN said that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom had taken note of the report just submitted to the Council, and did not wish to raise any objection to the Rapporteur's proposal. At the same time, his Government would itself have doubted whether, in a matter of that kind, a reference to the Permanent Mandates Commission was really necessary.

He also desired to call attention to the following paragraph of the report:

"'The text on which the Council is asked to give its opinion is a frontier delimitation agreement dating over ten years back, the provisions of which do not seem to have given rise to any objection either on the part of the populations concerned or of third States or of Members of the Council, and their application does not seem to have occasioned any criticisms on the part of the Permanent Mandates Commission.'"

M. BARTHOU strongly supported both the form and substance of the observations made by the representative of the United Kingdom. He did not see how there could be any objection to them and had nothing to add to them.

The resolution was adopted.

* * * * *

Extract from the minutes of the 25th session of the Permanent Mandates Commission

(X/15/34) (62)

~~Extract from the report by the representative of Czechoslovakia dated 3rd September, 1934 at (9).~~

On May 14th, 1934, the Council in response to a joint request dated February 15th, 1934, from the Governments of France and the United Kingdom, the mandatory Powers for Syria and Palestine, declared its willingness to examine with a view to approval, the Franco-British Agreement of March 7th, 1923, which delimits the Syro-Palestinian section of the frontier between the territories detached from the former Ottoman Empire and placed under their respective mandates, as defined in the Convention of December 23rd, 1920. To this end, the Council invited the Permanent Mandates Commission to inform it as soon as possible of its opinion on the line fixed by the said Agreement, from the point of view of the execution of the mandates.

The Council is now in possession of the Commission's opinion, which is dealt with as a special question in the report at present under consideration. In this document the Commission notes that the Agreement of March 7th, 1923, delimits with slight changes the western section of the frontier line defined by the Convention of December 23rd, 1920. It adds that during the eleven years which have elapsed since the coming into force of this Agreement, it had had no occasion to note any disadvantages arising in connection with the present frontier line from the point of view of the administration of the mandated territories concerned or from that of the interests of the local populations. The Commission, therefore, concludes in reply to the request contained in the Council's resolution of May 14th, 1933, that the line fixed by the Franco-British Agreement of March 7th, 1923, does not call for any special observation on its part.

Extract from the report by the representative of Czechoslovakia dated 3rd September, 1934 at (9).

On May 14th, 1934, the Council in response to a joint request dated February 15th, 1934, from the Governments of France and the United Kingdom, the mandatory Powers for Syria and Palestine, declared its willingness to examine with a view to approval, the Franco-British Agreement of March 7th, 1933, which delimits the Syro-Palestinian section of the frontier between the territories detached from the former Ottoman Empire and placed under their respective mandates, as defined in the Convention of December 23rd, 1920. To this end, the Council invited the permanent Mandates Commission to inform it as soon as possible of its opinion on the line fixed by the said Agreement, from the point of view of the execution of the mandates.

The Council is now in possession of the Commission's opinion, which is dealt with as a special question in the report at present under consideration. In this document the Commission notes that the Agreement of March 7th, 1933, delimits with slight changes the western section of the frontier line defined by the Convention of December 23rd, 1920. It adds that during the eleven years which have elapsed since the coming into force of this Agreement, it had had no occasion to note any disadvantages arising in connection with the present frontier line from the point of view of the administration of the mandated territories concerned or from that of the interests of the local populations. The Commission, therefore, concludes in reply to the request contained in the Council's resolution of May 14th, 1933, that the line fixed by the Franco-British Agreement of March 7th, 1933, does not call for any special observation on its part.

In these circumstances I shall propose that the Council give its approval to the Franco-British Agreement of March 7th, 1933.

D/144/31 (64)

Extract from

Minutes of the eighty-sixth Session of the Council of the League of Nations.

original on 8/N/31

X X X X X

" 'B. Western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine.

" 'The Council, in response to the joint request of the British and French Governments dated February 15th, 1934,

" 'Considering that the Permanent Mandates Commission, which was consulted in accordance with the Council resolution of May 14th, 1934, has stated that the line fixed by the Franco-British Agreement of March 7th, 1923, concerning the delimitation of the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine does not call for any special observation on its part:

" 'Approves the Agreement of March 7th, 1923.

X X X X X

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
28 APR 1937
D/144/31

(66)

HEADQUARTERS,
BRITISH FORCES IN PALESTINE
AND TRANS-JORDAN.

CR/Pal/5762/2/G.

27th A p r i l, 1937.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that during the recent Railway Protection Exercise the question was raised as to the location of EL HAMME Railway Station.

It appears on available maps as within the Palestine frontier, but the staff and property are apparently Syrian.

The local police and the Railway Authorities are divided in their opinions and the T.J.F.F. believe the station to be in Syria.

It is a small point, but from the point of view of Internal Security it is desirable that it should be decided, and I would be grateful if a ruling on the location could be made.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

F. Keith Simms
Colonel, G.S.

The Chief Secretary,
Palestine Government.

FKS/HC.

(69)

D/144/31.

10 May, 1937.

Sir,

(66) I am directed to refer to your letter No. CR/Pal/5762/2/G of the 27th April, 1937, regarding the location of El Hamme railway station, and to inform you that the station lies within the boundaries of Palestine, but that the railway enjoys extra-territoriality.

2. I am to enclose extracts from an Agreement between His Majesty's Government and the French Government, and a copy of an Order defining the Palestine - Trans-Jordan boundary, which set out the position in detail.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) S. MOODY

CHIEF SECRETARY.

The General Officer Commanding,
British Forces in Palestine
and Trans-Jordan,
Headquarters,
Jerusalem.

Mr. Law

MK

CONFIDENTIAL

C/9

15/5/38

D/144/31 (7.0)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER ON SPECIAL DUTY
P.O.B. 852,
JERUSALEM,
PALESTINE.

22nd March, 1938.

My dear Shaw,

The Secretary of the Palestine Partition Commission has asked that the Commission may be furnished urgently with six copies of the Bon Voisinage Agreement with Syria and the Lebanon, 1936.

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly let me have the necessary copies for transmission to the Commission as soon as possible.

Copies furnished
PA
K 25.3.38

Yours ever,
D. G. Harris

J.V.W. SHAW, Esq.,
Assistant Chief Secretary.

PA

Code, Cypher or Cle[illegible] Code.

C.S.O. 53.

(71)

TELEGRAM

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM
13 DEC 1938
D/144/31

From H.M.Consul, Damascus.

Despatched 12.12.38. 1630 hrs.

To

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE,
TRANS-JORDAN.

Received 12.12.38.1737 hrs.
13.12.38. 0710 hrs.

G.P.P. 6841—6000—28-10-38

No.75.

I have a copy. 13/12

Please send urgently copy of frontier delimitation map attached to Franco-British Delimitation Agreement dated 3rd February, 1922 on the Syrian-Palestine frontier.

72

D/144/31.

15 December, 1938.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your telegram No.75 of the 12th December, 1938, and to forward herewith as requested, a copy of the Frontier Delimitation map, attached to the Franco-British Delimitation Agreement of the 3rd February, 1922 on the Syrian-Palestine Frontier.

71 -

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A. N. LAW

CHIEF SECRETARY.

HIS MAJESTY'S CONSUL,
BRITISH CONSULATE,
DAMASCUS.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
1 FEB. 1939
D/144/31

73

In your reply please quote
Ref. No. G.391.

Telephone No. 14

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
GALILEE DISTRICT, NAZARETH.

28 January, 1939.

CHIEF SECRETARY.

Subject :-Boundary Line between Syria and Palestine.

I shall be glad if you will furnish me with copies in English and French of the Treaty Series No.13 of 1923.

for DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
GALILEE AND ACRE DISTRICT

Copy to:-Assistant District Commissioner, Safad.

(74)

D/144/31 8 February, 1939.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Palestine presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and is directed to request that he may be furnished with six copies of the Agreement between His Majesty's Government and the French Government respecting the boundary line between Syria and Palestine from the Mediterranean to El Hammé (Treaty Series No.13 (1923) Cmd.1910).

Copy to District Commissioner,
Galilee and Acre District. (73)
(Ref. his G.391 of 28-1-39)

Copy to District Commissioner,
Gailes and Aere District.
(Ref. His G.391 of 28-1-39)

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
25 FEB. 1939
75

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. G. 391.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
GALILEE AND ACRE DISTRICT
NAZARETH.

23 February, 1939.

CHIEF SECRETARY.

Subject :- Boundary Line between Syria and Palestine.

D/144/31

Reference:- My letter No. G. 391 dated 28th January, 1939.

73

I shall be glad to be furnished with a reply to my letter under reference.

for DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
GALILEE AND ACRE DISTRICT.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
6 MAR. 1939

79

75098/39.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies presents his compliments to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Palestine, and with reference to his communication of the 8th February, D/144/31, is directed to transmit six copies of the document asked for therein.

74

Cmd. 1910.
79a

Colonial Office,

Downing Street, S.W.1.

28 February, 1939.

33

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
13 APR. 1939

82

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. G. 391.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
GALILEE AND ACRE DISTRICT
NAZARETH.

8th April, 1939.

CHIEF SECRETARY.

Subject :- Boundary Line between Syria and Palestine.

Reference:- Your letter No. D/144/31 dated 11th March, 1939. 81

I shall be glad to know if two further copies of the agreement respecting the boundary line between Syria and Palestine can be made available as it is essential that copies should be kept for reference in the offices of the Assistant District Commissioner and District Officer, Safad.

for DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
GALILEE AND ACRE DISTRICT.

Copy to:- Assistant District Commissioner, Safad.

Cable Addr.: AMICOM :כתובת

הועד הכלכלי האמריקאי לארץ־ישראל
לשכת מודיעין מרכזית לתעסיה וחקלאות
THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE
CENTRAL BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC INFORMATION

PALESTINE OFFICE: TEL-AVIV
57, Nachlat Benjamin St. P.O.B. 52 Phone 954
עבר לשורות רוטשילד 18, תל־אביב
Removed to 18 Rothschild Blvd. Tel-Aviv
Tel. 2954 טל.

משרד בארץ־ישראל: תל־אביב
רחוב נחלת בנימין 57 תבת דאר 52 טלפון 954

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
Secretariat's Office
REGISTRY
JAN. 1940
189
3/144/31

January 5, 1940

Chief Secretary
Government of Palestine
J e r u s a l e m

Sir,

We should be very much indebted to you if you would send us a list of the Palestine Government publications (giving, if possible, the numbers and dates of the publications) in which there were published the full texts of the various treaties between the Government of Palestine and the Governments of Syria and the Lebanon or between His Majesty's Government in behalf of the Government of Palestine and the Government of the French Republic in behalf of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments in relation to the boundaries between Palestine, Syria and the Lebanon and the privileges of citizens of Palestine in Syria and the Lebanon and vice versa.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Faithfully yours,

THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
FOR PALESTINE

Per T. Berkowitz

tb:

(87)

10th
January, 1940.

D/144/31

Sir,

(85) I am directed to refer to your letter of the 5th January, 1940, in which you request that you may be furnished with copies of the various agreements concluded between His Majesty's Government and the French authorities on the subject of the boundaries between Palestine, Syria and the Lebanon, and to suggest that you should apply to His Majesty's Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, who may be able to furnish you with the necessary publications.

Copies of the Palestine Gazette containing legislation regarding the reciprocal treatment of Palestinian citizens in Syria and the Lebanon and Syrians and Lebanese in Palestine should be applied for direct to the Government Printer, Government Press, Jerusalem. You should give him an indication as to the subject matter of the legislation you have in mind and furnish particulars of the numbers and dates of the Gazettes in which such legislation is to be found.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) ROBERT SCOTT
CHIEF SECRETARY.

Mr. T. Berkowitz,
The American Economic Committee for Palestine,
P.O.Box 52,
Tel Aviv.

Drafted by Mr. Tattenbaum
Draft approved by
Fair copy typed by CS

(84)

25 January, 1940.

D/144/31

Gentlemen,

(89) I am directed to refer to your letter of the 18th January, 1940, on the subject of agreements entered into between His Majesty's Government and the French authorities regarding the boundaries between Palestine on the one hand and Syria and the Lebanon on the other and to inform you that the information you seek is to be found in the following publications:

Command 1195 Misc.No.4(1921)
Command 1910 Treaty Series No.13(1923).

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Mr.Tattenbaum

MF.

(SGD) A TATTENBAUM
CHIEF SECRETARY.

Messrs. The American Economic Committee
for Palestine,
P.O.B.52, Tel-Aviv.

(18)

(18)

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
REGISTRY
2 OCT 1941

92

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. LS/3(15). D/D1/14A/31

DEPT. OF LAND SETTLEMENT,
JERUSALEM.

1st October, 1941.

Ans 93

Chief Secretary.

Subject:- Palestine Frontier with Syria and the Lebanon.

A question has arisen in connection with Land Settlement as to the correct boundary of Palestine between Metullah and Benias. In order to elucidate the question I should be obliged if you could let me see the French text of the agreement.

DIRECTOR OF LAND SETTLEMENT.

S.

(93)

(94)

D/144/31 Acad

4 October, 1941.

Director of Land Settlement.

(92) I am directed to refer to your letter No. LS/3/15 of the 1st October, 1941, regarding the Palestine Frontier with Syria and the Lebanon and to forward herewith a copy of Cmd. paper No.1910, Treaty Series No.13(1923) containing the text of the Agreement between His Majesty's Government and the French Government respecting the Boundary Line between Syria and Palestine from the Mediterranean to El Hamme.

2. I am to request that this copy may be returned in due course.

(Sgd.) W. V. Fuller

CHIEF SECRETARY.

Mr Lovitt

Mr Fuller

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE.

(97)

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. LS/3(15).

DEPARTMENT OF LAND SETTLEMENT,
JERUSALEM.

Ack. (96)

17th October, 1941.

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
18 OCT. 1941
D/144/31

Chief Secretary.

Subject:- Palestine Frontier with Syria and the Lebanon.

Reference: Your D/144/31 dated 6th October, 1941.

(93)

attach to file.

I return herewith your copy of Cmd. paper No.1910, Treaty Series No.13 (1923) containing the text of the agreement between His Majesty's Government and the French Government respecting the Boundary between Syria and Palestine from the Mediterranean to El Hamme.

I shall be obliged if you will acknowledge receipt.

Norman Bentwich

DIRECTOR OF LAND SETTLEMENT.

S.

(96)

D/144/31. 24 October, 1941.

Director of Land Settlement.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. LS/3(15) of the 17th October, 1941, and to thank you for the return of Cmd. paper No. 1910, Treaty Series No.13 (1923).

Ser (94)

(sgd.) W. V. Fuller.
CHIEF SECRETARY.

Mr. Lovitt

Mr. Fuller
MS.

Palestine

(98)

Despatch No. 387

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JERUSALEM
11 DEC. 1941
D/144/31

Reference:-

~~Secretary of State's) Despatch No.~~
~~High Commissioner's) of~~

Transmitted, with the Compliments
of the Secretary of State,

the High Commissioner's information.

for ~~the High Commissioner's consideration.~~

~~favour of the High Commissioner's observations.~~

Date. 7 November, 1941.

Enclosures.	
Date	Nature of Communication.
1941.	
24th. Sept.	Despatch no. 90 from Cyprus.
6th. November	Despatch no. 109 to Cyprus

COPY.

CYPRUS.

NO. 90.

980

Government House,
Nicosia.

24th September, 1941.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transit in original a letter addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies which has been received from Dr. A.H. Unwin, O.B.E., late Conservator of Forests in Cyprus.

I have, etc.

(Sgd)J.V.SHAW.

Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
LORD MOYNE, P.C., D.S.O.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(986)

COPY.

PROPHITIS ELIAS MONASTERY,
Nr. Lythrodonda.

18th September, 1941.

Sir,

With reference to a Confidential Letter I sent in to the Palestine Government in June 1928, on the subject of including the Catchment Area of the Jordan within the boundaries of Palestine, I have the honour most humbly but professionally to invite your attention to this important matter again.

2. As you are aware, the river Jordan rises on the slopes of Mount Hermon.

3. My proposition was imply to alter the boundary of Palestine and Syria so as to include the Catchment Area of the source of the river Jordan.

4. Since from the Bible record of olden days Mount Hermon has always influenced the climate of Palestine beneficially, I do not think it necessary to elaborate to you, Sir, the great need of re-afforesting the Catchment Area of the source of the river JORDAN.

5. In order to fit in with the principles of the present war aims, this Area could be bought by the British Government from the Syrian Government.

6. From the General Water Conservation point of view, and Palestine's welfare, it is most necessary that the waters of the river Jordan should only be under control of one Government.

I have , etc.

(SGD) A.H. UNWIN.

His Majesty's
Principal Secretary of State,
for the Colonies,
LONDON.

CYPRUS.

No. 109

Colonial Office,
Downing Street.

6 November, 1941.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 90 of the 24th September forwarding a letter addressed to me by Dr. A.H. Unwin, O.B.E. late Conservator of Forests in Cyprus, on the subject of the inclusion of the catchment area of the River Jordan within the boundaries of Palestine.

2. I shall be obliged if you will cause Dr. Unwin to be informed that I have received his letter and am grateful for the suggestion made in it; that the point which he raises will not be overlooked if any question of the adjustment of the northern frontier of Palestine should arise but that I do not consider that this question could be usefully raised at the present time.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,

(signed) MOYNE

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING
THE GOVERNMENT OF
CYPRUS.